



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

May 5, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Department of Genetics
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I am sorry that we were unable to keep the position open for Rotman. I did not hear from him until the 30th of April. When I came back from the Wisconsin meeting, I was happy to learn that Mike Yarmolinsky had (against my expectations) decided to turn down Novelli's offer and stick with me. I told him, however, about our contact with Rotman and asked him to hold off for two weeks. After that time I found it advisable to secure Mike for my little department. Besides, so many colleagues had been speaking in favorable terms of him that it would be unnatural not to secure him.

I did telephone Bernie Davis concerning Rotman. Bernie was rather cool as he often is with young people, of course, and added that he did not have the faintest idea whether Rotman would come to Harvard. He felt that Rotman had exhausted his fellowships. I have mentioned Rotman's name to McElroy and perhaps there might be a chance later. I am, at least, only thankful that you contacted him since I feel that he might fit in sooner or later.

Today I am rehearsing for cell wall analysis on the 3096 mutants, growing 11 liters. If you could find an epimerase-less mutant in *Salmonella* (selection in anti-serum in the absence and presence of galactose), or, as suggested by Novick, in *Shigella sonnei*, using host ranges, it would be more rewarding.

We have made significant progress on the question of the architecture of yeast 4-epimerase (more in the next letter). Hence, K_{12} temperature mutants defect in epimerase would be particularly welcome at this time.

Write again soon.

Sincerely,

Herman M. Kalckar

HMK:lh

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